



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALTRANS INCORPORATES "SMART PARKING" INTO SAFE TRIP 21 Mobility, Efficiency and Safety Enhanced Through Technology

New York – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) today announced that "Smart Parking" has been incorporated into the SafeTrip 21-initiative. This \$1 million addition to the SafeTrip-21 initiative will allow motorists to make informed choices about travel options that will ultimately reduce traffic congestion and emissions.

"Smart Parking isn't just about parking, it's about choice and assisting a traveler from origin to destination with the bundling of road, transit, parking, cost, and other information," said Randell Iwasaki, Caltrans Chief Deputy Director and ITS America 2008 Chair.

Motorists in congested conditions can retrieve parking availability and train arrival information through their cell phones, the Internet and changeable message signs for selected Caltrain commuter rail stations along the U.S. 101 corridor in the San Francisco Bay Area. They can find out about parking services before leaving home or, if driving, before exiting the freeway. This information will encourage drivers to ride the train instead, reducing traffic along the busy corridor. This first-in-the-nation, unique parking information service will enhance the field test of traveler information technology presently occurring under the SafeTrip-21 initiative announced in June 2008.

The total \$13.4 million partnership between the U.S. Department of Transportation and Caltrans and its team will field test technologies designed to reduce gridlock and traffic-related fatalities and injuries on America's roadways through GPS-equipped cellular signals from up to 10,000 volunteer commuters and transit vehicles transmitting real-time data over roads in a 200 mile radius in the San Francisco Bay Area. This real-time information will help commuters make intelligent travel choices and avoid congestion, whether they are driving to work, using local transit systems, or even looking for an open parking space.

The partnership will also establish a national field test to advance the development of a Vehicle Infrastructure Integration system, which uses Wi-Fi and Dedicated Short Range





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Communications to alert drivers to traffic conditions so they can avoid accidents before they happen.

Multiple consumer devices will be used, including mobile phones and personal navigation devices, and a diverse set of communication capabilities. In addition, an in-vehicle gateway will provide a wireless interface to the internet for many consumer electronic devices.

SafeTrip-21 demonstrations are occurring daily at the ITS World Congress in New York City this week. Other SafeTrip-21 partners include the University of California–Partners for Advanced Transit and Highways (PATH), California Center for Innovative Transportation (CCIT), Nokia, NAVTEQ, Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, Samtrans and Nissan.

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Editor's Note: SafeTrip-21 technologies are being demonstrated at the ITS World Congress at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in New York City until Thursday, November 20.

